

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NSF-04

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DRAFTED BY NSF/OPP:MR. HEG  
APPROVED BY SCI/SA:AERICHMOND  
SCI/SA:RDYCODER  
ARA/APU:MR. DAVIS

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R 090108Z NOV 73  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TGEN, AR, XV  
SUBJECT: RESEARCH SHIP ELTANIN; ARRANGEMENT OF COOPERATION  
CONCERNING AND TRANSFER TO ARGENTINA

1. ON 1 NOVEMBER THE ARGENTINE NAVY NOTIFIED THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION THROUGH ARGENTINE NAVAL ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON THAT GOA WOULD ACCEPT US OFFER OF ELTANIN, SUBJECT TO THREE MODIFICATIONS TO THE DRAFT ARRANGEMENT OF COOPERATION JOINTLY DRAFTED IN BA LAST JULY.

ARGENTINA DESIRES: (1) AN INCREASE IN US ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FROM DOLLARS 500,000 TO DOLLARS 600,000 PER YEAR; (2) ANNUAL TALKS REGARDING ESCALATION IN OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS; AND (3) AN ARTICLE IN THE ARRANGEMENT COVERING LIABILITY AND LOSSES.

2. WHILE NSF IS HAVING A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE WITH THE FIRST TWO REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE POINTS RAISED BY THE ARGENTINE NAVY CAN BE FOUND IN A NEW ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS

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BETWEEN NSF AND ARGENTINE NAVY REPRESENTATIVES. TO THIS

END IT IS PROPOSED TO SEND A TEAM TO BA TO RENEW  
DISCUSSIONS ON THE ARRANGEMENT OF COOPERATION ON 14  
NOVEMBER. WE ARE INFORMED THIS DATE IS SATISFACTORY TO  
ARGENTINE NAVY.

3. US TEAM WILL CONSIST OF MR. JAMES E. HEG, NSF  
REPRESENTATIVE AND TEAM LEADER,  
AND CAPTAIN CARL W. GRONEMANN, JR., USN, REPRESENTING  
THE OCEANOGRAPHER OF THE NAVY, WHO HAS CUSTODY OF THE SHIP.  
TEAM EXPECTS TO ARRIVE BA AT 2145 MONDAY NOVEMBER 12  
VIA AEROLINEAS FLIGHT 221. TEAM WILL BE PREPARED TO HOLD  
INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH ARGENTINE NAVY ON  
TUESDAY PM AND TO CONDUCT FORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON 14TH, AND  
IF NECESSARY ON 15 AND 16 NOVEMBER ALSO.

4. US NAVY REP WILL BE PREPARED TO TENDER A FORMAL  
OFFER OF SHIP TO CINC ARGENTINE NAVY IF DISCUSSIONS ON  
THE ARRANGEMENT ARE FRUITFUL AND TELEPHONIC APPROVAL  
OBTAINED FROM NSF.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO RESERVE TWO SINGLE ROOMS,  
PREFERABLY AT HOTEL TUCUMAN PALACE, FOR 12 THROUGH 16  
NOVEMBER AND TO PROVIDE A REPRESENTATIVE TO PARTICIPATE  
IN DISCUSSIONS. SOME STENOGRAPHIC ASSISTANCE MAY ALSO  
BE REQUIRED.

6. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US TEAM IF EMBASSY COULD  
PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE OF HOW ANXIOUS ARGENTINE NAVY IS TO  
OBTAIN THE SHIP. FYI - ABRUPTNESS OF CHANGE IN  
ARGENTINE DECISION ON SUBJECT, COUPLED WITH HIGHLY  
CONCILIATORY AND RATHER ANXIOUS ATTITUDE  
DISPLAYED BY NAVAL REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON,  
SUGGEST TO US THAT ARGENTINE NAVY'S DESIRE TO ENTER INTO  
JOINT ARRANGEMENT IS NOW VERY STRONG. END FYI RUSH

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